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19. (Twice amended) A method of formatting a graphical user interface, said method comprising:

providing a graphical user interface;

designating a subsection of said graphical user interface;

defining spatial properties of said subsection;

providing a control accessible by said user wherein said control is operable by said user to independently reconfigure said shape of said subsection of said graphical user interface in a plurality of user desired configurations in response to operation of said control by said user; and

permitting a user to reconfigure said graphical user interface with said control while retaining said spatial properties of said subsection.

REMARKS

This amendment is filed in response to the office action mailed on September 19, 2002. After entry of this amendment, claims 1-19 are pending in the application.

The office action rejected claims 1-19 as unpatentable over Torres (5,384,910) in view of Cline et al. (5,771,032) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. In view of the remarks listed below, it is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Namely, as the Examiner noted in the office action, Torres fails to contemplate that a control device be provided to allow the user to specifically control the shape of the subsection of the graphical user interface. The Examiner then cites Cline as purporting to teach this missing aspect. However, as the Examiner noted, Cline teaches a GUI that dynamically reshapes in response to text/data that is scrolled in response to the user interacting with a scroll-bar, and not a GUI that is independently configured directly by a user. Thus, claims 1, 2, 14, and 19 as amended more clearly recite the applicant's invention.

Cline merely teaches a window that dynamically reshapes in response to scrolling text (Col. 3, lines 47-50, 64-67; Claim 1), hence the GUI reshapes the window

(Col. 5, line 50) and not the user. The user merely scrolls the text, and the text in turn determines the configuration of the window, and the user does not have any independent, control over the configuration of the window. Further, the reshaper icon option disclosed by Cline only allows the window to return to a predetermined setting, and again does not teach letting the user define a plurality of desired independent configurations, as the present invention allows. Therefore, Cline does not teach a control device that allows a user to independently reconfigure the shape of the subsection of the GUI, and combining it with Torres would not disclose this either.

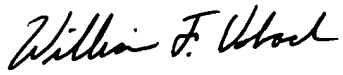
Thus, Cline does not teach, nor would it have made obvious, the independent reconfiguration of a GUI in response to a user's desire to reconfigure the GUI. Therefore, the differences between the applicants' claims and the Torres reference in view of the Cline reference are such that the claimed inventions would not have been obvious at the time the claimed inventions were made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Twice amended) A method of providing a graphical user interface, said method comprising:

providing an initial configuration of said graphical user interface for use by a user;

configuring a subsection of said graphical user interface so as to allow said user to reconfigure the shape of said subsection during use by said user; and

providing a control accessible by said user wherein said control is operable by said user to [specifically control the] independently reconfigure the shape of said subsection of said graphical user interface in a plurality of user desired configurations in response to operation of said control by said user.

2. (Twice amended) A method of formatting a graphical user interface, said method comprising:

providing a graphical user interface;

defining a subsection of said graphical user interface;

designating said subsection of said graphical user interface as reconfigurable, so that during use said user can reconfigure said subsection without reconfiguring the entire graphical user interface; and

providing a control accessible by said user wherein said control is operable by said user to [specifically control the] independently reconfigure the shape of said subsection of said graphical user interface in a plurality of user desired configurations in response to operation of said control by said user.

3. (As filed) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:

designating only said subsection of said graphical user interface as reconfigurable so that during use said user can reconfigure only said subsection without reconfiguring the remainder of said graphical user interface.

4. (As filed) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:

defining a maximum expansion size limit for said subsection.

5. (As filed) The method as described in claim 4 and further comprising:

utilizing a height of said subsection to define said maximum expansion size limit of said subsection.

6. (As filed) The method as described in claim 4 and further comprising:

utilizing a width of said subsection to define said maximum expansion size limit of said subsection.

7. (As filed) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:

defining a minimum compression size limit for said subsection.

8. (As filed) The method as described in claim 7 and further comprising:

utilizing a height of said subsection to define said minimum compression size limit of said subsection.

9. (As filed) The method as described in claim 7 and further comprising:

utilizing a width of said subsection to define said minimum compression size limit of said subsection.

10. (Once Amended) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:

allowing said user to expand the entire graphical user interface;

expanding said subsection in a manner proportional to said expansion of said entire graphical user interface; and

discontinuing [expanison] expansion of said subsection at a predetermined boundary for said subsection while continuing to expand said remainder of said graphical user interface.

11. (As filed) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:

designating a plurality of subsections of said graphical user interface as reconfigurable, so that during use said user can reconfigure at least one of said plurality of subsections without reconfiguring the entire graphical user interface.

12. (As filed) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:

allowing said user to relocate said subsection within the graphical user interface.

13. (As filed) The method as described in claim 2 and further comprising:

allowing said user to define spatial rules for said subsection.

14. (Twice amended) A method of formatting a graphical user interface, said method comprising:

providing a graphical user interface;

defining a subsection of said graphical user interface;

designating said subsection of said graphical user interface as non-reconfigurable, so that during use said user can reconfigure the remainder of said graphical user interface without reconfiguring said subsection of said graphical user interface; and

providing a control accessible by said user wherein said control is operable by said user to [specifically control the] independently configure the shape of said remainder of said graphical user interface in a plurality of user desired configurations in response to operation of said control by said user.

15. (As filed) The method as described in claim 14 and further comprising:

designating only said subsection of said graphical user interface as non-reconfigurable so that during use said user can reconfigure only the remainder of said graphical user interface without reconfiguring said subsection of said graphical user interface.

16. (As filed) The method as described in claim 14 and further comprising:

designating a plurality of subsections of said graphical user interface as non-reconfigurable, so that during use said user can reconfigure the remainder of said graphical user interface without reconfiguring said plurality of subsections of said graphical user interface.

17. (As filed) The method as described in claim 14 and further comprising:

allowing said user to reconfigure the remainder of said graphical user interface while retaining said subsection in a fixed location relative to a reference point.

18. (As filed) The method as described in claim 14 and further comprising:

allowing said user to define spatial rules for the remainder of said graphical user interface.

19. (Twice amended) A method of formatting a graphical user interface, said method comprising:

providing a graphical user interface;

designating a subsection of said graphical user interface;

defining spatial properties of said subsection;

providing a control accessible by said user wherein said control is operable by said user to [specifically control the] independently reconfigure the shape of said subsection of said graphical user interface in a plurality of user desired configurations in response to operation of said control by said user; and

permitting a user to reconfigure said graphical user interface with said control while retaining said spatial properties of said subsection.